

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): Apparatus for effecting a desired geometric change in the annulus of a heart valve and limiting mitral leaflet prolapse, said apparatus comprising:

first and second plication bands, each said plication band comprising:

first and second substantially straight and parallel legs, each having a first end, ~~said the~~ first ends of said first and second legs ~~having a tissue piercing configuration being~~ adapted to pierce heart valve tissue; and

a bridge having first and second ends, ~~said the~~ first end of said bridge being connected to said first leg and ~~said the~~ second end of said bridge being connected to said second leg, such that ~~said the~~ first ends of said first and second legs are separated by a first ~~given~~ distance;

said bridge being configured such that when ~~said the~~ first ends of said first and second legs have pierced tissue at ~~said the~~ first ~~given~~ distance, said bridge ~~may be~~ deformed is deformable so as to cause ~~said the~~ first ends of said first and second legs to each move toward ~~one another~~ the other so as to thereafter be separated by a second, shorter ~~given~~

distance, whereby said first and second legs gather together ~~the~~
pierced tissue to effect a ~~desired geometric change in~~
contraction of the annulus of the heart valve; and

a linking construct connected proximate a first end thereof
to said first plication band and proximate a second end thereof
to said second plication bands.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for effecting a desired
geometric change in the annulus of a heart valve and limiting
mitral leaflet prolapse, said method comprising the steps of:

providing apparatus for effecting a ~~desired geometric change~~
cotraction in the annulus of ~~a~~ the heart valve, ~~said the~~
apparatus comprising:

first and second plication bands, each ~~said~~ plication
band comprising:

first and second substantially straight and
parallel legs, each having a first end, ~~said the~~ first ends of
said first and second legs ~~having a tissue piercing configuration~~
being adapted to pierce heart valve tissue; and

a bridge having first and second ends,
~~said the~~ first end of said bridge being connected to said first
leg and ~~said the~~ second end of said bridge being connected to

said second leg, such that ~~said~~ the first ends of said first and second legs are separated by a first ~~given~~ distance;

said bridge being configured such that when ~~said~~ the first ends of said first and second legs have pierced tissue at ~~said~~ the first ~~given~~ distance, said bridge ~~may be deformed~~ is deformable so as to cause ~~said~~ the first ends of said first and second legs each to move toward one another so as to thereafter be separated by a second, shorter ~~given~~ distance, whereby said first and second legs gather together ~~the~~ pierced tissue to effect ~~a desired geometric change~~ the contraction in the annulus of the heart valve; and

a linking construct connected proximate a first end thereof to said first plication band and proximate a second end thereof to said second plication bands;

deploying ~~said~~ the first plication band in a first portion of tissue, and deploying ~~said~~ the second plication band in a second portion of tissue such that ~~said~~ the linking construct extends across ~~the~~ a mouth of the valve and draws the ~~two~~ first and second portions of tissue together, thereby limiting leaflet prolapse.